

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method implemented by a ~~digital content publication~~ system that includes a content publisher, a digital content manager, a digital content publication server, a digital rights manager, and a content distributor, the method comprising:

obtaining, by the digital content publication server, data that identifies unprotected digital content which is stored at ~~a digital~~ the digital content manager and which has been selected by a ~~content~~ the content publisher for distribution or publication;

obtaining, by the digital content publication server, data from the digital content manager that causes a digital content publication module of the digital content publication ~~system~~ server to be invoked;

in response to obtaining the data from the digital content manager, invoking the digital content publication module by the digital content publication server;

~~responsive~~ in response to invoking the digital content publication module, receiving the unprotected digital content and metadata associated with the unprotected digital content from the digital content manager by the digital content publication server;

providing, by the digital content publication server, an interface for allowing the content publisher to enter publication information associated with the unprotected digital content;

receiving, by the digital content publication server and from the content publisher, the publication information associated with the unprotected digital content ~~from the content publisher~~, using the interface, the ~~public~~ publication information comprising distribution information that identifies ~~one or more~~ the content distributor ~~distributors~~ selected to distribute the digital content;

protecting, by the digital content publication server, the unprotected digital content by one or more processors and the digital content publication module, further comprising storing the

protected digital content in the digital content publication server without providing the protected digital content to the digital rights manager;

sending, by the digital content publication server, a rights label including the metadata and the publication information to ~~a digital~~ the digital rights manager for registration;

~~obtaining data that indicates that the rights label has been registered with the digital rights manager, from the digital rights manager~~;

providing, by the digital content publication server, data to the content ~~distributors~~ distributor to indicate that the content ~~distributors~~ distributor can retrieve the rights label from the digital rights manager; and

providing the protected digital content from the digital content publication server to a customer of the content ~~distributors~~ distributor.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the digital content includes at least one of streaming video content, music content, graphic content, print content, sound content, or audio content.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the metadata includes at least one of a name, length, publisher, location, or description associated with the digital content.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the publication information further comprises at least one of pricing, rights, or catalog information associated with the digital content.

7 – 55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the rights label comprises an eXtensible Rights Markup Language (XrML) rights label.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the digital content publication module comprises an active server page (ASP).

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein obtaining data from the digital content manager further comprises receiving a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) request.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the interface further comprises populating fields of the interface with at least a portion of the metadata.

60. (Currently Amended) A ~~digital content publication~~ system comprising:

one or more computers; and

a computer-readable medium coupled to the one or more computers having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the one or more computers, cause the one or more computers to perform operations comprising:

obtaining, by a digital content publication server, data that identifies unprotected digital content which is stored at a digital content manager and which has been selected by a content publisher for distribution or publication;

obtaining, by the digital content publication server, data from the digital content manager that causes a digital content publication module of the digital content publication server to be invoked;

in response to obtaining the data from the digital content manager, invoking the digital content publication module by the digital content publication server;

~~responsive~~ in response to invoking the digital content publication module, receiving the unprotected digital content and metadata associated with the unprotected digital content from the digital content manager by the digital content publication server;

providing, by the digital content publication server, an interface for allowing the content publisher to enter publication information associated with the unprotected digital content;

receiving, by the digital content publication server and from the content publisher, the publication information associated with the unprotected digital content ~~from the content publisher~~, using the interface, the ~~public~~ publication information comprising distribution information that identifies ~~one or more content distributors~~ a content distributor selected to distribute the digital content;

protecting, by the digital content publication server, the unprotected digital content by the digital content publication module, further comprising storing the protected digital content in the digital content publication server without providing the protected digital content to ~~the digital~~ a digital rights manager;

sending, by the digital content publication server, a rights label including the metadata and the publication information to ~~a digital~~ the digital rights manager for registration;

~~obtaining data that indicates that the rights label has been registered with the digital rights manager, from the digital rights manager;~~

providing, by the digital content publication server, data to the content ~~distributors~~ distributor to indicate that the content ~~distributors~~ distributor can retrieve the rights label from the digital rights manager; and

providing the protected digital content from the digital content publication server to a customer of the content ~~distributors~~ distributor.

61. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the digital content includes at least one of streaming video content, music content, graphic content, print content, sound content, or audio content.

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the metadata includes at least one of a name, length, publisher, location, or description associated with the digital content.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the publication information further comprises at least one of pricing, rights, or catalog information associated with the digital content.

64. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the rights label comprises an eXtensible Rights Markup Language (XrML) rights label.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 60, wherein the digital content publication module comprises an active server page (ASP).

66. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 60, wherein obtaining data from the digital content manager further comprises receiving a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) request.

67. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 60, wherein providing the interface further comprises populating fields of the interface with at least a portion of the metadata.

68. (Currently Amended) A computer storage medium encoded with a computer program, the program comprising instructions that when executed by data processing apparatus cause the data processing apparatus to perform operations comprising:

obtaining, by a digital content publication server, data that identifies unprotected digital content which is stored at a digital content manager and which has been selected by a content publisher for distribution or publication;

obtaining, by the digital content publication server, data from the digital content manager that causes a digital content publication module of a digital content publication system server to be invoked;

in response to obtaining the data from the digital content manager, invoking the digital content publication module by the digital content publication server;

responsive in response to invoking the digital content publication module, receiving the unprotected digital content and metadata associated with the unprotected digital content from the digital content manager by the digital content publication server;

providing, by the digital content publication server, an interface for allowing the content publisher to enter publication information associated with the unprotected digital content;

receiving, by the digital content publication server and from the content publisher, the publication information associated with the unprotected digital content ~~from the content publisher~~, using the interface, the public publication information comprising distribution information that identifies ~~one or more content distributors~~ a content distributor selected to distribute the digital content;

protecting, by the digital content publication server, the unprotected digital content by the digital content publication module, further comprising storing the protected digital content in the digital content publication server without providing the protected digital content to ~~the digital a digital~~ a digital rights manager;

sending, by the digital content publication server, a rights label including the metadata and the publication information to ~~a digital~~ the digital rights manager for registration;

~~obtaining data that indicates that the rights label has been registered with the digital rights manager, from the digital rights manager~~;

providing, by the digital content publication server, data to the content ~~distributors~~ distributor to indicate that the content ~~distributors~~ distributor can retrieve the rights label from the digital rights manager; and

providing the protected digital content from the digital content publication server to a customer of the content ~~distributors~~ distributor.

69. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 68, wherein the digital content includes at least one of streaming video content, music content, graphic content, print content, sound content, or audio content.

70. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 68, wherein the metadata includes at least one of a name, length, publisher, location, or description associated with the digital content.

71. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 68, wherein the publication information further comprises at least one of pricing, rights, or catalog information associated with the digital content.

72. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 68, wherein the rights label comprises an eXtensible Rights Markup Language (XrML) rights label.

73. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 68, wherein the digital content publication module comprises an active server page (ASP).

74. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 68, wherein obtaining data from the digital content manager further comprises receiving a hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP) request.

75. (Previously Presented) The computer storage medium of claim 68, wherein providing the interface further comprises populating fields of the interface with at least a portion of the metadata.

76. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the content distributor, the digital content manager, the digital content publication server, and the digital rights manager are each implemented on discrete servers.

77. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the content distributor, the digital content manager, the digital content publication server, and the digital rights manager are each implemented on discrete servers.

78. (New) The computer storage medium of claim 68, wherein the content distributor, the digital content manager, the digital content publication server, and the digital rights manager are each implemented on discrete servers.